

In a personal communication Merrilees mentions the fact that "the *Zygoniaturus* premolar and the *Sthenurus* premolar and molars all are encrusted with red matrix and presumably come from a fossil deposit. The red fine-grained matrix suggests that this deposit may be in a limestone cave, and there are many such caves in the Fitzroy basin". The red matrix, I feel sure, is ochre, and on examination of the *Sthenurus* teeth it can be seen that this ochre does not penetrate all cavities and freshly broken surfaces can be seen. This leads me to believe that the *Sthenurus* teeth at least had only been recently exposed.

### NATURE OF THE CHARMS

The *Zygoniaturus* tooth was used in a form of projection magic and was itself known as "Tjagola". This it seems is rather a generic name for any unusual stones, bones, shells or teeth used in this way, and therefore gives no further clues to origin of the specimen. This was given to me in Derby by an Aboriginal from Mount Hart.

As was mentioned earlier the *Sthenurus* teeth were a hunting or increase charm. These were collected at Mowanjum Mission, from a Worora man, who also incidentally, brought in some archaic points from Winjana Gorge.

Apart from reporting two unusual, to say the least, charms, I feel that this case shows full well what happens when an enthusiastic but untrained collector manages to acquire something out of the ordinary. The ability to recognize and to record the sociological and functional implications of any artifact is important as it enhances and makes useful an interesting but otherwise barren artifact.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### REFERENCES

- Merrilees, D. 1968. Man the Destroyer—late Quaternary Changes in Australian Marsupial Fauna. *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 1-24. 51(1): 1-24.
- Playford, P. E. and D. C. Lowry. 1966. Devonian Reef Complexes on the Canning Basin, Western Australia. *Geol. Survey of W.A., Bulletin* 118.

### FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Yellow-billed Spoonbill near Busselton.**—While touring the South-West in mid-January 1973, Mrs. Kath Stewart and I had a very good view of a Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) at dusk on the Abba River, just north of Busselton. The bill and bare skin around the face and eyes appeared more pink than yellow, suggesting they were immature birds, as described in Slater's *A Field Guide to Australian Birds*.

—NOELA MARR.

**Quokka on the Albany Highway.**—In early May 1972, when on my way home from Perth, I noticed a small marsupial had been hit and killed by a passing vehicle, and, as it was not a Brush (*Macropus irma*), I stopped to examine it. To my surprise it was a Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*). It was a few chains just past the 27 mile peg on the Albany Highway.

—DAWN CRABB, "Cheryton," Kojonup.

**Black-throated Butcher-bird at Woodmans Point.**—This species, *Cracticus nigrogularis*, is only an occasional visitor from the north to the Swan Coastal Plain, and Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Aus-*